



**Ministry of Agriculture-Jahad
Iran Fisheries Organization**

**Iran (Islamic Republic of) National Report to the
Scientific Committee of the Indian Ocean Tuna
Commission, 2024**

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INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

<p>In accordance with IOTC Resolution 15/02 (and other data related CMMs as noted below), final scientific data for the previous year were provided to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 June of the current year, for all fleets other than longline [e.g., for a National Report submitted to the IOTC Secretariat in 2024, final data for the 2023 calendar year must be provided to the Secretariat by 30 June 2024)</p>	<p>YES 30/06/2024</p>
<p>In accordance with IOTC Resolution 15/02, provisional longline data for the previous year was provided to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 June of the current year [e.g., for a National Report submitted to the IOTC Secretariat in 2024, preliminary data for the 2023 calendar year were provided to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 June 2024).</p> <p>REMINDER: Final longline data for the previous year are due to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 Dec of the current year [e.g., for a National Report submitted to the IOTC Secretariat in 2024, final data for the 2023 calendar year must be provided to the Secretariat by 30 December 2024).</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions: There is only one industrial longline vessel which has not been active in recent years. But numbers of artisanal gillnet dhows have been actively engaged in longline fishing in 2023. These vessels, while not included in the overall count of longline fishing vessels, were encouraged to adopt a seasonal approach, operating only during specific fishing seasons.</p>	



Executive Summary:

Tuna and tuna-like species constitute a significant portion of Iran's large pelagic fisheries. This sector is pivotal to the nation's marine economy, operating primarily in the Persian Gulf, Oman Sea, and the high seas.

In 2023, Iran's total fish production amounted to 1.4 million tonnes. Of this, 741 thousand tonnes (representing 52% of the total) were derived from the Persian Gulf, Oman Sea, and the high seas. The Caspian Sea contributed 37 thousand tonnes (3%), while aquaculture produced 640 thousand tonnes (45%).

The catch quantity of large pelagic species (including by-catch) amounted to around 332 thousand metric tonnes, representing approximately 43% of the country's total catch in 2023, and around 275 thousand metric tonnes belongs to tuna and tuna-like fishes in the Indian Ocean areas. This catch primarily comprised tropical tuna 112 thousand metric tonnes (37.6%), neritic tuna 132 thousand metric tonnes (44.5%), billfish species 31 thousand metric tonnes (10.6%), 1,528 metric tonnes (0.5%) of various shark species, and 20 thousand metric tonnes (6.8%) of other non-target species.



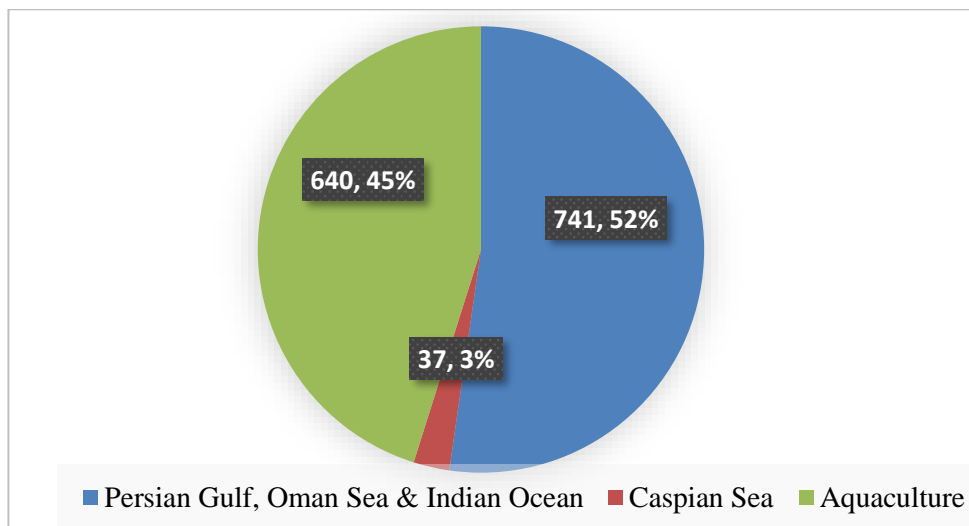
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1. BACKGROUND/GENERAL FISHERY INFORMATION:

Iran's diverse coastline, spanning the Caspian Sea in the north and the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea in the south, provides a rich aquatic environment. The southern waters, in particular, are renowned for their abundant large pelagic species. Four coastal provinces—Khuzestan, Bushehr, Hormozgan, and Sistan & Baluchestan—border these waters, offering a vast 5,800 km of coastline. Iranian fishermen have a long history of offshore fishing, particularly in the northwest Indian Ocean, where they employ gillnet and purse seine techniques to target tuna and other large pelagic species.

Iran's aquatic production encompasses both aquaculture and marine fisheries. In 2023, the total aquatic production reached 1,400,000 metric tons, with aquaculture contributing 601,000 metric tons and marine fisheries contributing approximately 719,000 metric tons.



Marine fisheries, primarily concentrated in the southern waters, accounted for 97% of the catch, while the northern waters contributed 3%. Over 144,000 fishermen utilize a variety of vessels, including fishing boats, dhows, and ships, to engage in gillnet, purse seine, trolling, trawl, and wire-trap fishing.

2. FLEET STRUCTURE:

The fishing methods targeting large pelagic species in Iran include gillnet, purse seine, longline (traditional boats), as well as trolling by small boats in coastal fisheries. The gillnet fleet, in particular, consists primarily of locally made wooden and fiberglass vessels.

The total number of fishing vessels in Iranian southern fisheries is around 15,488, of which around 8,588 fishing vessels are engaged in tuna fishing activities. Of all fishing vessels, 11,884 are boats, 3,482 are dhows, and 122 are industrial fishing ships. The number of fishermen directly engaged in fishing activities is about 144,125 individuals.

In 2023, there were approximately 8,588 fishing vessels engaged in catching large pelagic species in the IOTC area of competence. This included 266 gillnet fishing dhows over 100 GT, 473 gillnet dhows between 51 and 100 GT, 604 gillnet dhows between 3 and 50 GT, and 4,908 gillnet fishing boats under 3 GT. Additionally, 2,337 trolling boats under 3 GT with outboard engines were also involved in day-long coastal fishing operations.

Gillnet-boat, especially those under 3 tonnes, dominate the fleet. Other significant categories include gillnet-dhow vessels of varying sizes. Trolling vessels, particularly those under 3 tonnes, are present in much smaller numbers. The data does not include any trolling-dhow vessels.

GEAR GROUP	Capacity GT	No. of active fishing fleet by year				
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Purse seine	500 to 1000 t	2	2	2	0	0
	>1000 t	5	5	5	0	0
Coastal artisanal longline*	< 3	400	250	280	492	371
	51 to 100	184	70	70	85	59
	100 to 200	20	0	0	0	0
	>1000	1	1	1	1	0
Gillnet	< 3 t	3097	3752	2694	3416	4762
	3 to 20 t	207	230	437	247	301
	21 to 50 t	248	216	254	303	345
	51 to 100 t	249	246	506	477	261
	>100 t	448	487	246	248	478
Trolling	< 3 t	1748	1901	1771	1808	2171
Total all Gear fishing Craft		6004	6839	5917	6500	8317

Table 1 shows the number of fishing vessels by gear type and vessel capacity.

* It is noted that around 475 gillnet fishing dhows were active as longliners in 2023. These vessels were not included in the overall count of fishing vessels, as they are seasonal and temporary, operating only during certain fishing seasons.

3. CATCH AND EFFORT (BY SPECIES AND FISHERY) :

Catch and effort data were collected from 67 landing centres located along Iran's southern coast. A stratified random sampling method was employed to ensure that the data was representative of the entire fishing fleet. Approximately 10% of the fishing vessels, including dhows and boats of various types, were randomly selected, and their fishing data were collected through questionnaires by trained field samplers.

In addition, the number of fishing days at sea is recorded in the data collection software, for all active fishing vessels. These data are raised based on the total fishing effort.

There is specific scientific capture fishery statistic committee at both the provincial and national levels, and fishery research experts and administrative officers are members of these committees. In these committees, trends of data collection and raising are evaluated and ultimately approved.

Large pelagic fisheries by Iran fleet, are done in coastal area and high seas by different type of vessels that the result of catch reflected in table 3.1 and figure3.1 shows the total yearly catch by gear type and species reported for the all fleet. The catch quantity of large pelagic species (including by-catch) in Iran was 296427 Mt in 2023 reported to the IOTC Secretariat and around 274758 Mt belongs to tuna and tuna-like species in the coastal and high seas. Those catch consist of yellowfin tuna 37,350 Mt, Skipjack tuna 72,681Mt, Bigeye tuna 1,376 Mt, Longtail tuna 53,214 Mt, Kawakawa 28,252 Mt, Frigate tuna 11,942 Mt, billfish 31,450 Mt, Indo-pacific king mackerel 10,066 Mt, Narrow- barred Spanish mackerel 28,427 Mt, Sharks 1,528 Mt, and other species 20,141 Mt. Figure 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4 showing the amount of catch for different fishing methods by species during 2019 to 2023. Total catch for purse seine, gillnet, long line by coastal artisanal boats and trolling in 2023 was estimated 0 Mt, 274,095 Mt, 8,701 Mt and 13,632 Mt respectively. Gillnet with 92% of Catch is the dominant fishing gear followed by long line with 3% and around 5% comes from trolling vessels.

GEAR GROUP	SPECIES	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Purse Seine	KAW	0	0	0	0	0
	LOT	467	416	220	0	0
	SKJ	190	0	59	0	0
	YFT	3,361	610	247	0	0
	BET	0	0	0	0	0
	COM	0	0	0	0	0
	SFA	0	0	0	0	0
	BLM	0	0	0	0	0
	Sharks	0	0	0	0	0
	Others	28	0	6	0	0
Coastal artisanal longline	YFT	8441	8839	5600	9304	8586
	DOL	0	0	60	130	114
Gillnet	FRI	8860	12218	6902	8971	11822
	KAW	32706	34341	39109	34930	27463
	LOT	46435	51482	49527	44353	50623
	SKJ	39782	44516	68049	78598	72681
	YFT	40459	33757	35235	26492	27448
	BET	1949	1526	620	1016	1376
	COM	20949	21210	24508	20827	24802
	GUT	10035	10237	9871	8785	8232
	SFA	7502	11025	15834	11319	12496
	BLM	6109	4499	6527	15460	13410
	Other Billfish	3568	2846	3716	4691	3041
	TOTAL Billfish	17179	18370	26077	31470	28948
	FAL	487	154	239	427	126
	SPN	22	6	9	19	5
	MAK	27	10	15	24	8
	CCW	268	325	379	204	101
	RHA	1602	1948	2271	1430	604
	Other sharks	876	999	1172	675	321
	TOTAL Sharks	3281	3442	4085	2779	1163
	Other Species	26836	22576	29069	29343	19537
Trolling	FRI	98	8	125	608	120
	KAW	554	2215	457	1055	789
	LOT	2119	4655	1921	4035	2592
	YFT	5787	5109	3198	3025	1316
	COM	2822	5078	2305	4457	3625
	GUT	312	419	285	1111	1834
	SFA	499	2142	453	3339	2502
	Sharks	151	190	55	252	365
	Others	340	115	188	1371	489
Total all Gear Catch		294101	283472	308231	316252	296427

Table.3.1 Annual catch by gear type and species (Mt)

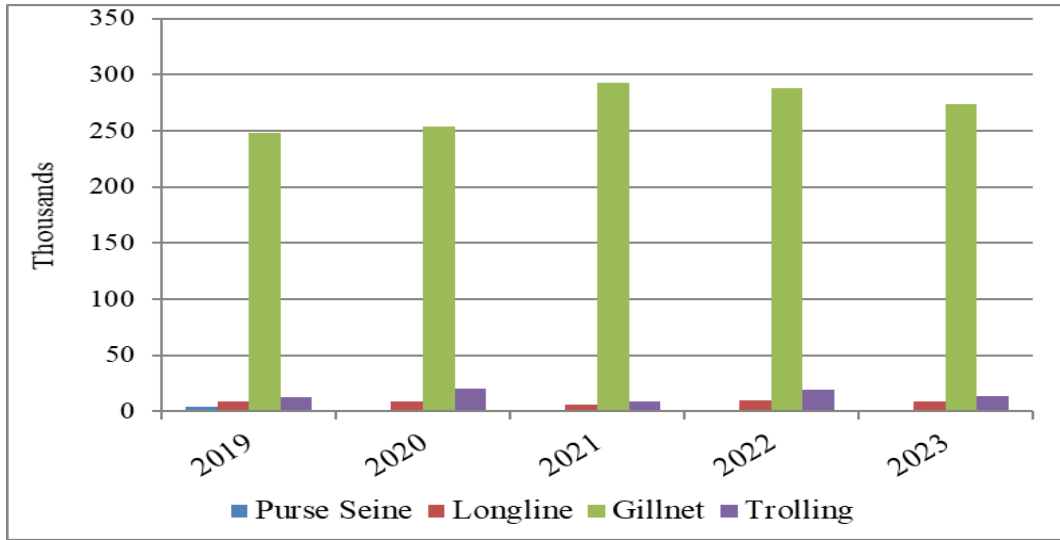


Figure 3.1- Annual Catch by Gear Type

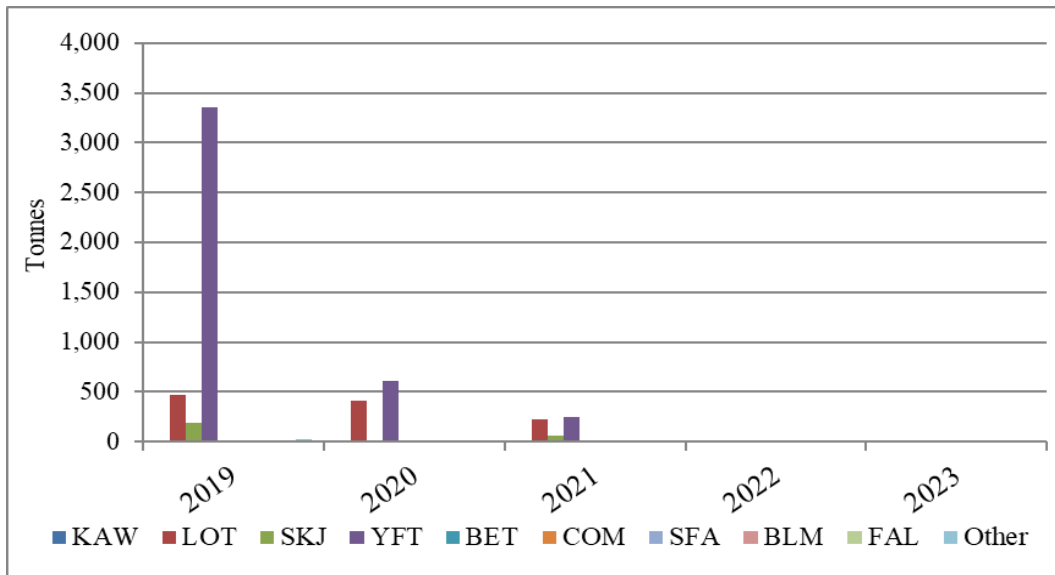


Figure 3.2 Annual Catch of Purse Seiners by Species

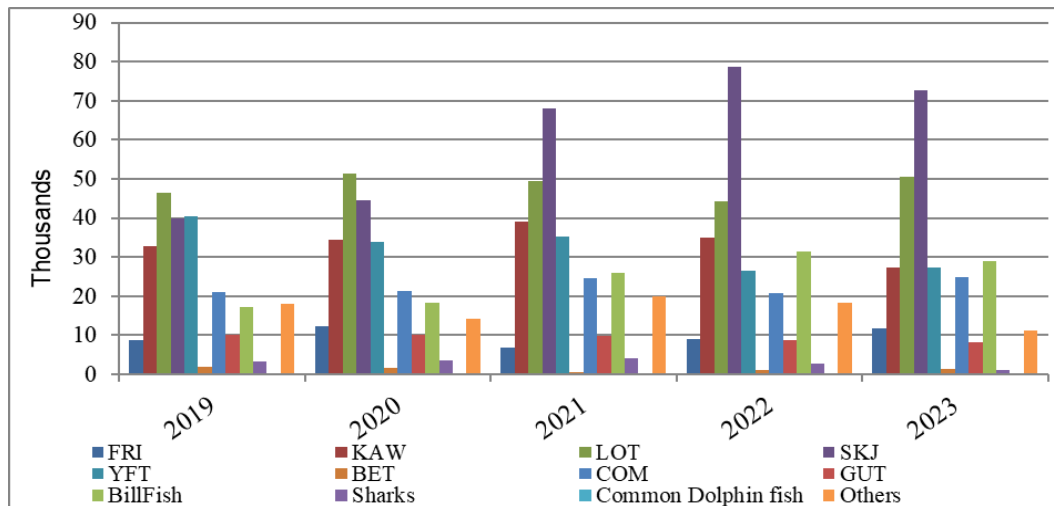


Figure 3.3 Annual Catch of Gillnets by Species

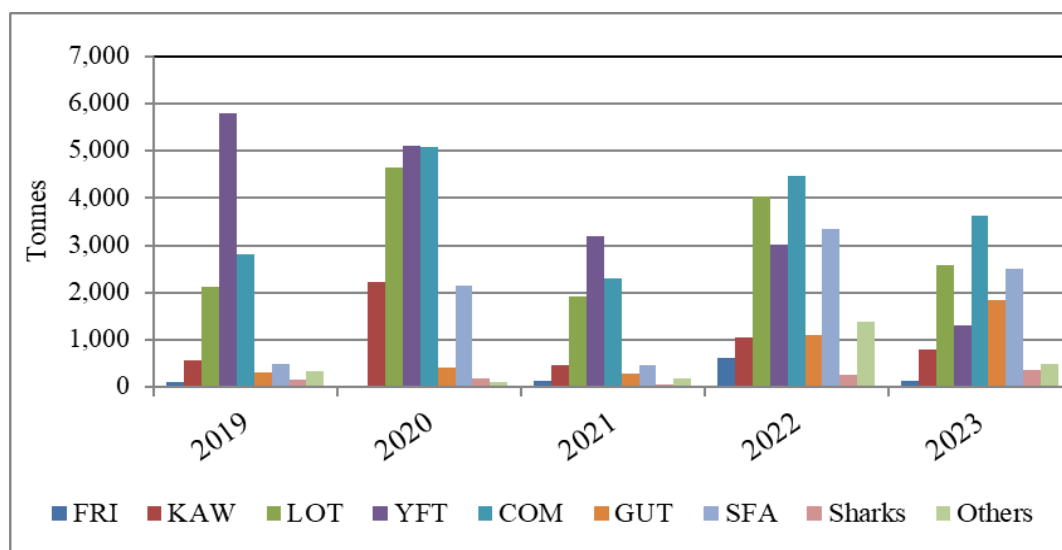


Figure3.4 Annual Catch of Trolling Method by Species

In 2023, fishing effort for large pelagic species around 1,125,000 days was carried out by all fishing fleet consist of gillnet, long line by artisanal boats and trolling, of which 886 thousand days was operated by gillnet, 56 thousand days by seasonal and temporal longline and about 183 thousand days done by trolling fisheries. Table 3.2 and figure3.5 show that the highest gillnet fishing pressure occurs within the Islamic Republic of Iran’s coastal water.

To mitigate the effects of fishing effort on tuna and tuna-like populations, Iran has taken several conservation and management measures. These include implementing limitations on engine power and dimensions for active fishing vessels according to the *Vessel Replacement Guidelines*, enforcing a moratorium or cessation of all fishing activities by fishing vessels in all provincial fishing grounds, establishing a seasonal fishing cessation for specific tuna species, including Narrow-barred Spanish Mackerel (COM), and implementing a Fishing Effort Management Plan in a designated area of the fishing grounds to control and adapt fishing effort. This plan will involve managing and adjusting the activities of various groups of vessels within the active fishing fleet.

Furthermore, several measures have been put into effect to decrease fishing efforts in specific regions. These measures include restricting the number of vessels permitted to fish in a particular area, regulating the use of fishing gear, shortening fishing seasons, reducing fishing days, increasing the mesh size in fishing nets, and promoting the adoption of selective fishing techniques that exclusively target the intended species. By adopting these measures, it is possible to sustainably manage tuna and tuna-like populations and guarantee the long-term sustainability of the fishing industry, which is heavily depends on them.

GEAR GROUP	Capacity GT	Annual fishing effort by different vessel categories (days)				
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Purse seine	500 to 1000 t	0	0	0	0	0
	>1000 t	811	401	376	0	0
Coastal artisanal longline*	< 3	20,000	34,000	45,000	49,200	49,920
	51 to 100	11,040	9,520	16,800	29,520	6,490
	100 to 200	1,200	0	0	0	0
	>1000	0	0	0	0	0
Gillnet	< 3 t	496,736	764,432	541,066	568,892	600,452
	3 to 20 t	37,392	43,369	77,334	46,606	57,645
	21 to 50 t	47,178	44,594	60,629	63,268	71,066
	51 to 100 t	40,029	36,904	93,199	100,245	55,436
	>100 t	75,343	72,941	46,197	52,129	101,037
Trolling	< 3 t	258,713	133,500	127,260	135,740	183,070
Total all Gear fishing effort		988,441	1,139,662	1,007,861	1,045,600	1,125,115

Table 3.2. Fishing effort by different vessel categories (days)

*We don't have any specific active industrial longline vessel

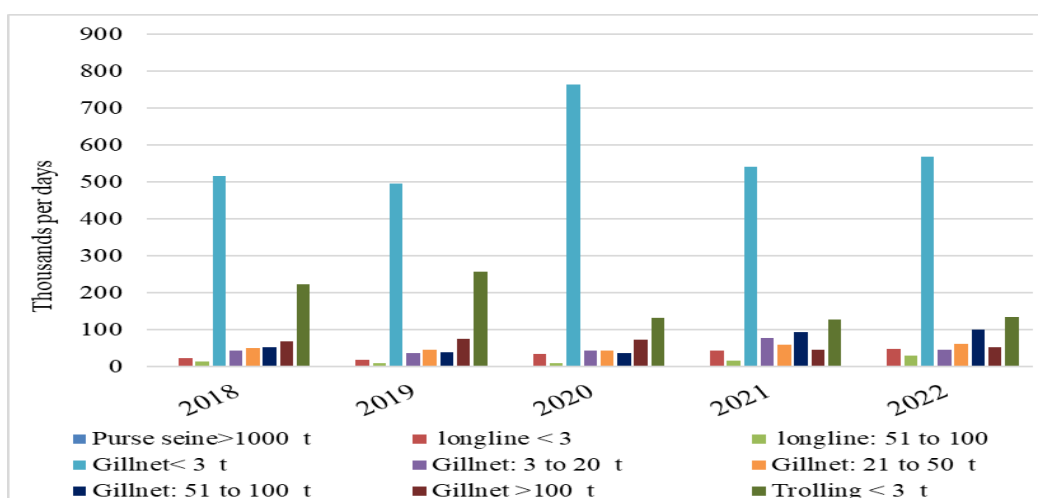


Figure 3.5 Tuna and tuna like fishing effort by all fleet in (fishing day)

4. Recreational fishery:

Under the current regulations established by the Iran Fisheries Organization, there are no provisions for recreational tuna fishing. Consequently, there is little interest or demand for this activity, and no licenses are being issued for recreational tuna fishing.

5. ECOSYSTEM AND BYCATCH ISSUES

The Iran Fisheries Organization (IFO) currently monitors and controls fishing vessels and their catches through a port-based monitoring system at fishing ports. Our experts inspect all catch gear and devices, verify compliance with relevant standards, and assess vessel crews before they set sail and at the end of each trip, focusing on catch results, composition, and by-catch.

During landing times, the IFO organizes training workshops for fishermen engaged in tuna and tuna-like fisheries. These workshops familiarize fishermen with IOTC regulations and resolutions, particularly those related to ecosystems and by-catch. Additionally, the IFO has trained specialists in identifying various species, especially sharks and turtles, where technical support is critically needed. We also instruct fishermen on adhering to international maritime laws concerning fisheries and the regulations of other countries, particularly regarding innocent passage through the territorial waters of third parties.

According to IFO regulations and Iran's Environment Supreme Council Resolution No. 380, the catch of sharks is entirely banned; fishermen are only permitted to retain sharks caught as by-catch. All sharks must be safely released unless they are in poor condition.

5.1 Sharks

According to IFO regulations, we have never issued licenses for the catch of different species of sharks; fishermen are permitted to land only those sharks caught as by-catch. Additionally, based on Iranian cultural beliefs, nearly 90% of Iranians do not consume sharks, with only a small number of people in the Southern part of Iran eating them.

Recognizing the importance of landing sharks whole, all relevant resolutions have been translated, and their contents related to shark conservation have been communicated at various levels of meetings. We have also made efforts to convey these concepts to fishermen during training workshops. This initiative involves close cooperation with Fisheries Unions, environmental organizations, and NGOs. Therefore, we have not received any reports about the total number of released/discarded sharks, by species, from the national fleet in the IOTC area of competence, due to the lack of on board observers. But IFO monitors and controls all the species during landing times in fishing harbors. However, although there are weaknesses in accessing historical data of different species, especially sharks, shark information has been recorded by

species since 2012. According to the collected information, the amount of shark species in 2023 is shown in table 5.1 and figure5.1

GEAR GROUP	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
FAL	487	154	239	427	126
SPN	22	6	9	19	5
MAK	27	10	15	24	8
OCS	37	12	18	32	9
THR	0	0	0	0	0
CCW	268	325	379	204	101
CCO	535	650	757	407	201
RHA	1,602	1,948	2,271	1,430	604
Other sharks	455	527	452	488	475
TOTAL	3,432	3,632	4,140	3,031	1,528

Table 5.1. Total number and weight of sharks, by species

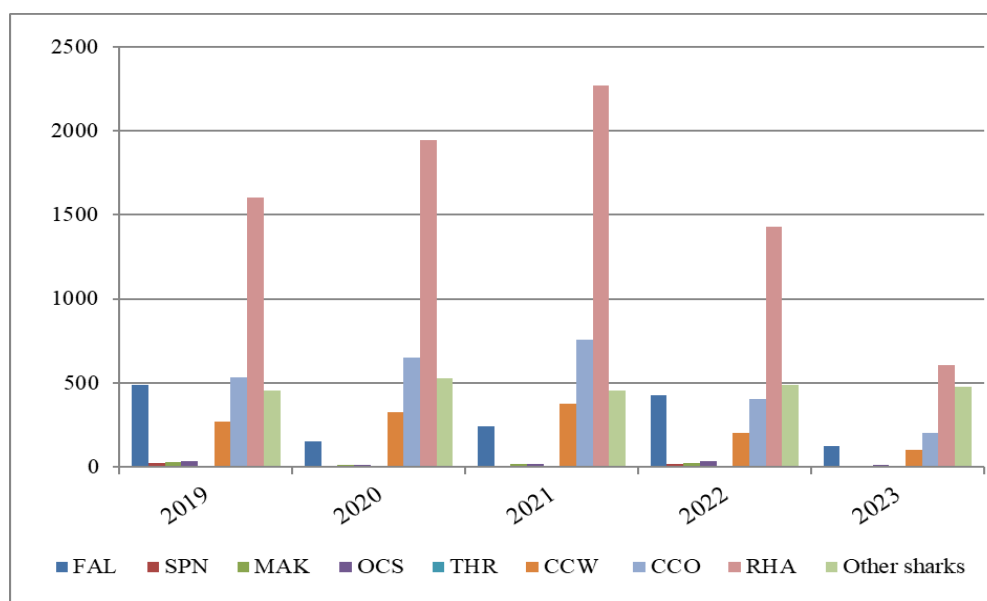


Figure5.1 Annual Shark Catch by species

5.1.1. NPOA sharks:

Iran Fisheries Organization is collecting some information from different sources, especially the printed guideline by FAO, to prepare the National action plan for Sharks. This is despite the fact that the current national regulation of countries is sufficient to conserve different shark species and there is no obligation to prepare NPOA-Sharks. We expect to publish Iran's NPOA-Sharks in 2025.

5.1.2. Blue shark:

Iran's fishing fleet does not target blue sharks, and no landings of blue sharks have been recorded, as monitored by port samplers at landing sites. In fact, our statistical report indicates a shark catch of zero.

5.2. Seabirds:

Based on IOTC resolution 12/06, the reduction of seabird by-catch specifically applies to longline fisheries and is not applicable to Iran. In 2023 Iran do not have any active longline vessels.

5.3. Marine Turtles:

Given that various species of marine turtles are considered protected in Iran, hunting these species is prohibited under the National Regulation of Tuna Fishing (2016) and the Law of Hunting and Fishing of the Iranian Environmental Protection Organization (1976). According to the law on hunting and fishing approved on June 6, 1967 (with amendments approved on January 20, 1975, and December 15, 1996), the determination of damages for wild animals' falls under the authority of the Supreme Council for Environmental Protection. Article 18 of this law recognizes the Environmental Protection Organization as a private plaintiff in claims for damages resulting from violations. The specified penalty for fishing marine turtles is set at 150,000,000 IRR.

The Iran Fisheries Organization has taken several actions to protect these valuable species:

- The IFO educates the fishing community on how to handle and release marine turtles that become entangled in fishing nets. This includes conducting training courses for fishermen, designing educational posters and brochures, and providing logbooks and training manuals.

- The IFO has informed gillnet vessel operators that they must record all incidents involving marine turtles during fishing operations in their logbooks and report these incidents to the Iran Fisheries Organization.

- If a marine turtle becomes entangled in the net, they must stop rolling the net as soon as the turtle surfaces, carefully disentangle it without causing injury, and assist in its recovery before returning it to the water as much as possible.

- Furthermore, the Environmental Protection Organization of Iran has designated areas along the shores of the Oman Sea and the Persian Gulf for marine turtle spawning and nesting to help protect these important species.

5.4. Other ecologically related species (e.g., cetaceans, mobulid rays, whale sharks)

Based on national laws and regulations set by the Iran Fisheries Organization (IFO), the catch of mammals or any other sensitive and endangered species is strictly forbidden. If any fishermen accidentally catch mammals, turtles, sharks, or any other sensitive species, they are required to release them safely and promptly. On the other hand, if inspectors or fishery guards discover any endangered species on board a vessel, the owner and captain of the vessel will be brought to court and punished by the fishery infraction investigation commission. These commissions are established in various cities and provinces and have the authority to suspend fishing activities for up to three months. It is important to note that the IFO has never issued any licenses for the catch of different species of mammals or sharks. Fishermen make efforts to release all entangled mammals or endangered species, and only sharks are considered as by-catch in landing sites.

Also, based on Iran religious beliefs, more than 90% of people do not eat Sharks or any mammals. Therefore, we have not received any reports about the total number of mammals or different species of sharks, by species, that are released/discarded by the national fleet in the IOTC area of competence.

As mentioned previously, we have not received detailed reports on the incidental catch of different species of seabirds, marine turtles, and marine mammals due to the lack of on-board observers. The main problem to implementing an observer scheme is the insufficient accommodation space and facilities on board. This limitation makes it impossible to accurately record important events by species, fishing gears, and positions (timeline) for the national fleets. Additionally, we have recently started establishing a network through virtual platforms on mobile phones. This has allowed us to receive some news, pictures, and videos about the safe release of these species, most of which are from Iran territorial waters.

Furthermore, there are several non-governmental organizations (NGOs) actively working with local communities and fishermen. These NGOs primarily focus on training these individuals and raising public awareness about the importance of conservation and responsible fishing practices.

6. NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION AND PROCESSING SYSTEMS

6.1. Logsheet data collection and verification

Iran has implemented a logbook program for artisanal gillnets and industrial purse seiners in 2011, and created a new logbook template based on IOTC resolutions. In the recent years, Iran has filled out the logbooks for the industrial purse seiners, and we plan to expand it to other artisanal fleets in the future, which will cover 10% of the vessels in the high seas.

6.2. Observer scheme

Due to some problems with the lack of accommodations, Iran fishing fleet has not been able to install observers on board the vessels. Iran has focused on improving the implementation of the observer scheme in ports and port sampling to meet the observer rate required by IOTC. Therefore, data and important biological and socio-economic information are collected by monitoring the fishing landing sites on a regular basis. This activity covers more than 10% of the active vessels.

6.3. Port sampling program

6.3.1. Catch Data sampling

Catch and effort and biological data of the coastal and offshore large pelagic fishery are collected at 43 out of 63 fish landing sites, consisting of 10 landing sites in KHOZESTAN Province, 8 landing sites in BUSHEHR Province, 20 landing sites in HORMOZGAN Province and 5 landing sites in SISTAN-BLUCHESTAN Province, along the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea coastlines. Port samplers stay on landing sites during the landing time of fish and they collect the data and fill out the forms. Also, biometry of fish for collecting length/weight frequency data is done during landing time. Catch and effort data are collected in all the above sites by stratified random sampling by the samplers. In this way, 10% of total fishing crafts for different vessel classes of fishing dhows and boats are randomly selected and their fishing data are registered. Landing surveys are conducted to obtain data on catches in the artisanal fisheries.

Port sampling was carried out for small-scale fisheries. In this way, 10% of fishing vessels are randomly selected and the sample data are raised to all active fishing vessels and total catches are maintained by vessel categories, gear types and species composition, landing site and each month. In each landing site, there is one enumerator who is responsible to collect data. All of the operations are fulfilled by Iran Fisheries Organization fish statistic Software called AMAR Software. In addition, Control of fishing license and Questionnaire carry out by the Head of fishery Statistical Unit in the relevant port. This kind of control will then be carried out in Province centre through computer. Afterwards this will be processed in Data Centre in Tehran. Cross Check by total census in one or two landing site will then be undertaken.

6.3.2. Size data sampling

Collection of size data for tuna and tuna-like species is crucial in understanding their population dynamics, growth rates, and the impacts of fishing on their populations, and, for creating effective tuna management strategies. The data collected will serve as one of the primary sources of scientific information supporting the management of tuna populations. Size data collection for tuna and tuna-like species can provide crucial insights into the conservation and sustainability of these populations, as well as the information necessary for effective resource management. Size sampling shall be run under strict and well described random sampling schemes which are necessary to provide unbiased figures of the sizes taken. Sampling coverage shall be set to at least one fish measured by tonnes caught, by species and type of fishery, with samples being representative of all the periods and areas fished.

In order to improve the assessment of tuna and tuna-like species in the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea, port sampling has been conducted under random sampling scheme in four coastal provinces, and field samplers collected size data at 19 sample landing centres. At least one fish per tonne has been measured by species and type of fishery. We utilized the direct measurement method. This method provides unbiased and accurate figures of the size taken, which is essential for estimating population size and growth rates over time. Although it can be time-consuming, it is more accurate than using estimations from catch data. The size data is collected through measuring Fork Length (FL). Understanding the size distribution of these tuna populations across different fishing gears is crucial for effective fisheries management and conservation efforts. The data is collected using various fishing gears, including gillnet, hook-and-line, and longline. To ensure accurate estimates, especially for larger fish and during spawn seasons, rigorous statistical analysis and adequate sample sizes are necessary for effective size data collection and the development of stock assessment models for tuna species.

In 2023, around 173077 tuna fish were measured. The fork length frequency for seven economically important tuna and tuna like species was obtained. These species include Longtail tuna (*Thunnus tonggol*), which dominated the other tuna species with 49210 specimens, followed by Kawakawa (*Euthynnus affinis*) with 26807, Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (*Scomberomorus commerson*) with 39597, Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) with 33761, Skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) with 16839, Bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) with 1750. The majority of the size data were collected from gillnets, accounting for 94.8% of the total. Table.6.1. & 6.2. Showing the number of tuna and tuna like species that their length are measured by gear types and Mean Length Data recorded in the IOTC Database.

Size Data recorded in the IOTC Database						
EAR GROUP	SPECIES	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Gillnet	FRI	Nil	Nil	Nil	172	0
	KAW	37985	25230	23448	32295	26807
	LOT	46811	33735	26839	40008	49210
	SKJ	18474	19398	5959	18809	16839
	YFT	22970	18063	12470	27994	33761
	BET	1256	502	465	615	1750
	COM	42115	26946	23254	29068	39597
Purse seine	KAW	0	0	0	0	0
	LOT	1097	0	0	189	0
	SKJ	278	0	224	0	0
	YFT	6786	285	659	45	0
	BET	0	0	103	0	0
Trolling/ Hand & Line	COM	2059	2428	0	840	1305
	LOT	0	0	0	0	0
	YFT(by Coastal LL)	7371	7712	2084	5503	3808
	YFT(by Hook & Line)	0	0	0	1685	0
Total Length Frequency		187202	134299	95505	157223	173077

Table.6.1. Number of Tuna and Tuna like species that their length are measured by gear types

GEAR GROUP	SPECIES GROUP	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Gillnet	FRI	Nil	Nil	Nil	36.9	0.0
	KAW	53.3	55.2	52.5	49.0	52.1
	LOT	68.2	72.0	68.2	69.3	64.8
	SKJ	54.7	60.4	59.5	58.9	56.5
	YFT	82.5	84.0	81.8	81.0	78.7
	BET	82.8	84.3	79.6	84.0	86.2
	COM	85.7	87.9	86.9	88.1	81.9
Purse seine	FRI	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	KAW	78.4	0.0	0.0	76.8	0.0
	LOT	60.9	0.0	54.2	0.0	0.0
	SKJ	116.2	136.4	98.7	83.6	0.0
	YFT	0.0	0.0	87.3	0.0	0.0
Trolling/ Hand & Line	COM	95.0	83.5	0.0	86.2	96.8
	LOT	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	YFT(by Coastal LL)	103.1	95.7	84.2	86.1	82.0
	YFT(by Hook & Line)	0.0	0.0	0.0	82.4	0.0

Table.6.2. Mean Length Data recorded in the IOTC Database

6.4. Actions taken to monitor catches & manage fisheries for Striped Marlin, Black Marlin, Blue Marlin and Indo-pacific Sailfish

Iran is obligated to implement measures to monitor and manage billfish fisheries. This includes establishing systems to track catch and effort, adopting management measures like size limits and fishing restrictions, and reporting to the IOTC. While specific actions taken by Iran may vary, it's crucial to ensure sustainable fishing practices and protect billfish populations. The landings of Striped Marlin, Black Marlin, Blue Marlin, and Indo-Pacific Sailfish have been monitored through a sampling program and reflected in Table 3.1 for the years 2019-2023. It is important to note that, according to national regulations for tuna fishing management, the capture of billfish smaller than 60 cm in Lower Jaw Fork Length is prohibited.

6.5. Gillnet observer coverage and monitoring:

The majority of fishing vessels in Iran are small-scale and have limited space and facilities for observers, who are expected to have the same status as a ship officer according to the related proposals. This makes it difficult to implement the observer program on board these vessels. Therefore, Iran has mainly focused on improving the port based observer scheme and port sampling to achieve the observer rate required by IOTC.

6.6 SAMPLING PLANS FOR MOBULID RAYS:

Iran, as an IOTC member, is responsible for monitoring mobulid ray catches, especially if they occur incidentally in its fisheries. While Iran may not have significant mobulid ray fisheries, it should still monitor for incidental catches and report them to the IOTC.

Since Iran does not land mobulid rays due to their release policy, traditional sampling methods at landing sites would be ineffective. Consequently, the nation should explore alternative methods, such as onboard observer programs or electronic monitoring systems, to gather data on incidental catches.

7. NATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS:

- 7.1. National research programs on blue shark**
- 7.2. National research programs on Striped Marlin, Black Marlin, Blue Marlin and Indo-pacific Sailfish**
- 7.3. National research programs on sharks**
- 7.4. National research programs on oceanic whitetip sharks**
- 7.5. National research programs on marine turtles**
- 7.6. National research programs on thresher sharks**

No relevant national research programs are currently being implemented for items 7.1-7.6.

Table 8: Summary table of national research programs

Project title	period	Countries involved	Budget total	Funding source	Objectives*	Short description
Monitoring the status of tuna and tuna like species landed in the P.G.& O.S. (landing sites of Sistan-Bluchistan and Hormozgan province)	2021-2024	Iran (Persian Gulf, Oman Sea)	USD20000	Iranian Fisheries Science Research Institute		ongoing

Objectives*

- To determine the catch composition of tuna landed by species
- To collect the length frequency data of tuna landed by species
- To estimate the mean fork length of each tuna species landed
- To determine the percentage of mature and immature tuna fish landed by species (using the length at maturity (LM50))
- To estimate the growth parameters and fishing mortalities for each tuna species
- To detect the mean length trends of each tuna species landed, based on time series data, in the medium and long term.

8. IMPLEMENTATION OF SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE IOTC RELEVANT TO THE SC.

Iran has taken various actions to implement the Scientific Committee recommendations and IOTC Resolutions. Table 9 details the resolutions and how they have been implemented.

Table 9. Scientific requirements contained in Resolutions of the Commission, adopted between 2012 and 2022.

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
12/04	On the conservation of marine turtles	Paragraphs 3,4,6-10	Training fishermen translated current resolutions and distributed among fishermen, there is no interest for their catch because of no market. Related report has sent before to the secretariat
12/09	On the conservation of thresher sharks (family alopiidae) caught in association with fisheries in the IOTC area of competence	Paragraphs 4–8	Training fishermen translated current resolutions and distributed among fishermen, there is no interest for their catch because of no market. Big penalties and sanctions approved for offenders, related report has sent before to the secretariat.

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
13/04	On the conservation of cetaceans	Paragraphs 7– 9	Training fishermen translated current resolutions and distributed among fishermen, there is no interest for their catch because of no market. Big penalties and sanctions approved for offenders, related report has sent before to the secretariat.
13/05	On the conservation of whale sharks (<i>Rhincodon typus</i>)	Paragraphs 7– 9	Training fishermen translated current resolutions and distributed among fishermen, there is no interest for their catch because of no market. Big penalties and sanctions approved for offenders, related report has sent before to the secretariat.
13/06	On a scientific and management framework on the conservation of shark species caught in association with IOTC managed fisheries	Paragraph 5–6	Training fishermen translated current resolutions and distributed among fishermen, there is no interest for their catch because of no market. Big penalties and sanctions approved for offenders, related report has sent before to the secretariat.
15/01	On the recording of catch and effort by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence	Paragraphs 1–10	Catch and efforts by gears and vessel types are recorded and reported monthly.
15/02	Mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs)	Paragraphs 1–7	According to the Res. Iran submitted -Total catch data, -Catch by gear and effort data, - Size (Biometry) data, But, Only Iran dose not submitted, - Timelines and position of data,
17/05	On the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC	Paragraphs 6, 9, 11	Training fishermen translated current resolutions and distributed among fishermen, there is no interest for their catch because of no market. Related report has sent before to the secretariat. In total in 2021 the amount of sharks that are caught during tuna fisheries is around 1.3% of total catch
18/02	On management measures for the conservation of blue shark caught in association with IOTC fisheries	Paragraphs 2-5	During Iran fisheries histories our experts never recorded any blue shark landing. In fact, the shark catch is nil in our statistical report. So, it is not applicable for Iran.
18/05	On management measures for the conservation of the Billfishes: Striped marlin, black marlin, blue marlin and Indo-Pacific sailfish	Paragraphs 7 – 11	Catch by gear and efforts submitted, but size and timeline (position) did not report.
18/07	On measures applicable in case of non-fulfilment of reporting obligations in the IOTC	Paragraphs 1, 4	Related report has sent before to the secretariat.
19/01	On an Interim Plan for Rebuilding the Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna Stock in the IOTC Area of Competence (If not provided under Res 21/01 below)	Paragraph 22	Iran is implementing in accordance with Resolution 19/01 Paragraph 22.

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
19/03	On the Conservation of Mobulid Rays Caught in Association with Fisheries in the IOTC Area of Competence	Paragraph 11	In 2023 no intentional catch of Mobulid Rays in Iran
21/01	On an Interim Plan for Rebuilding the Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna Stock in the IOTC Area of Competence (If not provided under Res 19/01 above)	Paragraph 23	According to the national regulation for tuna fishing management and related correspondence with tuna fisheries branches in coastal provinces has been communicated to brief stakeholders to maintain conservation and management measures during the exploitation of yellowfin tuna stocks. They also have an action plan that includes managing the duration of the vessel fishing operation at sea, the fishing gears, and the plan to change the gillnet fishery to other selective fishing hooks to reduce the fishing effort, the catch season periods, etc. The purpose of this plan is to reduce the yellowfin fishing effort and catch amount. As a result, the yellowfin catch amount in 2023 decreased compared to the previous years.
22/04	On a regional observer scheme	Paragraph 12	Iran has mainly focused on improving the port based observer scheme and port sampling to achieve the observer rate required by IOTC. This activity covers more than 10% of the active vessels.
23/07	On reducing the incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries.	Paragraphs 3-7	Not Applicable, related report has sent before to the secretariat.

9. LITERATURE CITED